



2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Program Focus -

Keith Mortenson owns Mortenson Ranch which has been operated by his family since 1918. He raises sheep and cattle. He also grows alfalfa, corn, and barley on approximately 300 acres. Keith recently used the EQIP program in conjunction with the Basin States Salinity Control Program and a Utah Agriculture Resource Development Loan to convert 130 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation.

Keith's project was part of a larger project that used a Bureau of Reclamation Salinity Program funded pipeline system to deliver gravity pressurized irrigation water to 2800 acres of cropland. The project increased production of alfalfa by an average of two tons per acre. It also reduced salt loading of the Colorado River by 10,580 tons annually and conserved 5700 acre feet of water per year.

Utah Summary

Overview

In Utah, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Applications requesting Federal cost-share funds totaling over \$9.9 million dollars were submitted by 126 landowners and 33 Local Work Groups. The Utah FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$3,696,845. This is a shortfall of about \$10.5 million to meet current client needs. \$1,457,545 was earmarked for the Colorado River Salinity Control Program (CRSCP). \$5,752,115 was needed to enable producers to install on-farm systems that match the irrigation infra-structures installed by The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). This is a short fall of \$4,294,570. NRCS and partners developed and approved 594 EQIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated nearly 99.9 percent of allocated financial assistance funds.

Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in Utah through 33 Geographic Priority Areas (GPA) and 2 statewide Natural Resource Concern (NRC) projects. About \$3,273,088 in EQIP Federal cost-share dollars were obligated in GPAs and \$423,757 obligated in NRC projects. FY 2001 EQIP conservation plans and contracts covered 245,554 acres throughout the State. About 8273 clients were provided assistance associated with EQIP in Utah as reported in PRMS. In addition to financial assistance, nearly all of \$23,300 in EQIP education funds was awarded in grants to local work groups who are promoting resource conservation.

Outlook

The interest and need of EQIP funds to assist producers to meet the Clean Water Act and improve our natural resources continues to increase. The total unmet need requests from clients are over \$14.7 million in FY 2001. These figures indicate the need for continued program support to address significant resource concerns.

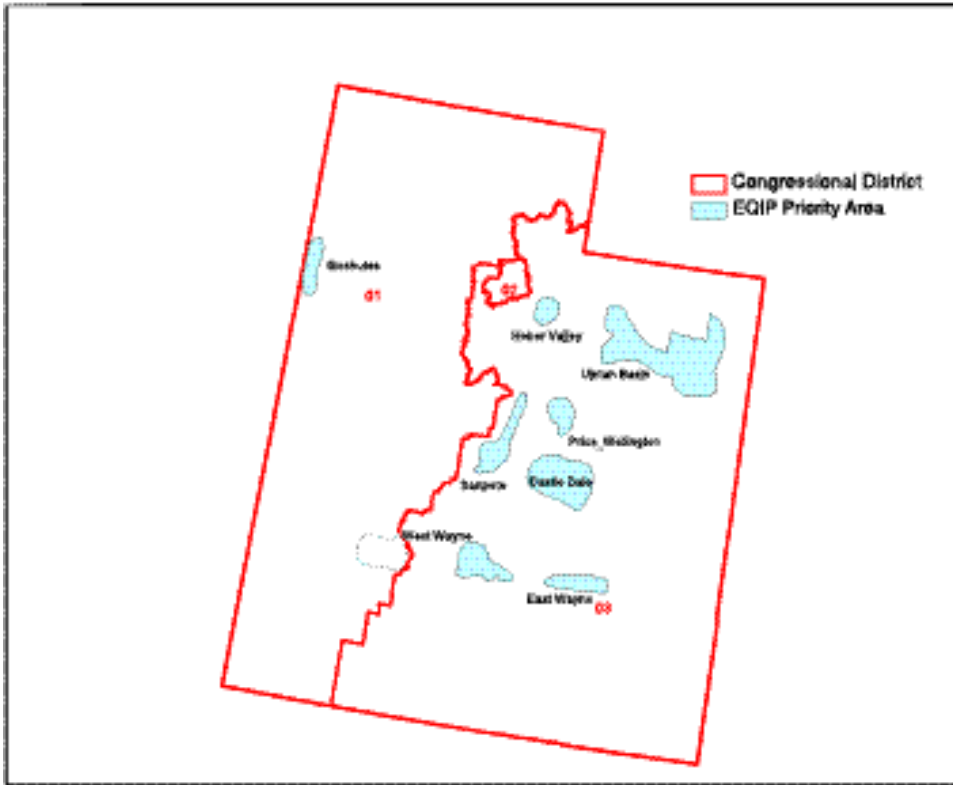
State Contacts

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Keith Mortensen with new center pivot irrigation system

Utah EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Utah EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative (1997-2001)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$480,535	8	\$3,028,999	153
District 2	0	0	0	0
District 3	\$2,781,419	132	\$13,463,795	659
State Totals	\$3,261,954	140	\$16,492,794	812

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